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✓ S. S. City, Oct. 9, 1874.

Cousin Joseph Smith

Your letter from Palos of the 7th
inst was duly received.

You are no doubt aware that from
the year 1835, until the time of his massacre I was intimately
acquainted with your father, and on such terms of friendship
with him as were enjoyed by but few others. In 1834, when on the
journey to Missouri I was his armour bearer and stood guard at
the tent in which we held his council. I was present at the organiza-
tion of the High Council at Kirtland and that of Missouri.
Was ordained a member of the 5th High Council of the church
which was organized at Adam-ondi-ahman.

I visited your father in Liberty jail during his incar-
ceration, when he notified me that it was the will of God
that I should be ordained one of the 12 apostles; after which
I went on my mission to England which occupied about
two years; starting from, the foundation of the Lord's house
in Far West, Missouri, where at the hazard of our lives a few
of us re-commenced the foundation of the Temple; whence
the brethren of the 12 took leave of the saints on the 28th of
April 1838; returned to Hawas from this mission in July
1841. At one of the first interviews, hereafter with your father

I was greatly astonished at hearing from his lips the doctrine of Patriarchal marriage which he continued to preach to me from time to time. My last conversation with him on this subject occurred just previous to my departure from Farwo [May 9, 1847] in company with Elder W. Woodruff to attend conferences in Michigan; a duty assigned as by your father in carrying out his instructions to the 12 to hold conferences throughout the States, on which mission they were engaged at the time of his death, with the exception of Elders Richards & Taylor who shared his dangers and participated with him and Hyrum in the bloody scenes enacted in Carthage jail.

In his last conversation he administered a little chastisement to me for not stepping forward as he had indicated in patriarchal marriage. He assured me that the man who had many virtuous wives had many great prizes. He admitted that the man who had one virtuous wife had one great prize. He testified to me & to my father that the Lord had given him the keys of this sealing ordinance, and that he felt as liberal to others as he did to himself. He remarked that he had given Brigham Young three wives, Asbury & Kimball two, John Taylor three, Orson Little two, and many a number of others and said to me "you should not be behind your privilege". He had

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all along kept me posted as to many of his movements in introducing the patriarchal order of marriage.

On the 5th day of April, 1843 Louisa Brown was married to your father, Joseph Smith, for time and all eternity, by Joseph B. Nobles a High Priest of the church. She remained true and faithful to him until the day of her death; Mrs. Nobles is still living.

June 4th, 1843 Lucy Ann Decker was sealed to Brigham Young by your father in presence of Willard Richards.

On the 29th day of June, 1842, Brigham Young sealed Eliza B. Snow to your father, in presence of Mr. S. M. Cleveland.

Sept 20th, 1843 Melissa Lott was married by Hyrum Smith to your father in presence of Cornelius P. Lott and Cornelia Lott.

May 1st A.D. 1843 Lucy Walker was sealed to your father by You Clayton in presence of Eliza M. Partridge.

May 11th 1843 Emily B. Eliza M. Partridge were married to your father, by James Edward a High Priest in presence of your Father Emma Smith.

June 13th 1843 Adora Richards was sealed by Wm. Richards to your father.

In July, 1843 Edmonia Wallmer was sealed by

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Brigham Young to your father in presence of H. C. Kimball.

24th July 1843, Mary Ann Frost and Stephen Brewerton were sealed to D. P. Britt by Hyrum Smith, Joseph being unwell, in presence of Mary Ann Young.

Aug. 11th, 1843, Lucy B. Thompson was married for time
to Hyrum Smith, by your father in presence of Mary Smith

In Aug. 25, Hyrum Smith married to Mrs. Grover
by instruction of your father two wives, viz., Caroline Whiting
• Caroline S. Hubbard.

In November, 1843, Brigham Young sealed Fanny
Murray to your Father in presence of Mary Ann Young and
Harriet Cook.

In 1844, Hyrum Smith sealed Catherine Clayton
to Howard Evans; Evans had a wife at this time.

April 27th, 1844, Adeline B. Andrus was sealed by
Drs. Hyrum Smith, to Ezra T. Benson in presence of Pamela
A. Benson, the first wife of Elder Benson.

Wm. Clayton your father's business clerk kept a daily
journal noting every evening a synopsis of the business
of the day so far as it came under his observation. On
the first day of May 1843, he made the following entry:
"At the Temple at ten, married Joseph Smith, Lucy
Walker."

On the 12th day of July 1843, Clay to in his journal

says: This is my "I wrote at prophet's dictation a Declaration consisting of ten pages on the order of the Priesthood showing the design in Miss. Abraham, David & Solomon having many voices etc. After it was written, Past. Joseph and Hyrum presented & read it to Emma, who said she did not believe a word of it, and appeared very rebellious.

A few of these casual items I have named may explain to you why the following declaration was made by your father on the 6th of April 1844: "You dont know me: you never knew my heart. No man knows my history. I cannot tell it: I shall never undertake it. I dont blame any one for not believing my history if I had not experienced what I have I could not have believed it myself."

The inauguration of these principles were a severe trial to your mother. At times she received and resolved to act upon the same. She gave your father four wives with her own hands; this intelligence I shall from your father's mouth.

August 1st 1845, Hyrum Smith read the Revelatio on Patriarchal Marriage given July 12th, of that year to High Council then convened in his private office. Seven of these Councillors are living and have given their att to the Church.

On the return of Lorenzo Snow from Eng

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He ascertained that his sister, Eliza, was the wife of your father: In relation to this subject George made the following statement: In the month of April, 1843, I returned from my European mission, a few days after my arrival at home when at President Joseph Smith's house, he said he wished to have some private talk with me and requested me to walk out with him. It was toward evening, we walked a little distance and sat down on a large log that lay near the bank of the river; he then and then explained to me the doctrine of plurality of wives. He said that the Lord had revealed it unto him, and commanded him to have women sealed to him as wives, that he foresaw the trouble that would follow and sought to turn away from the commandments that an angel from heaven then appeared before him with a drawn sword threatening him with destruction, unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment. He further said, that my sister, Eliza R. Snow, had been sealed to him as his wife, for time and eternity. He told me that the Lord would open the way so I should have women sealed to me as wives. This conversation was prolonged I think one hour or more in which he told me many important things.

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When I (A.S.) returned to St. Louis from my mission in the fall of 1843, I met H. Y. Smith at the landing, he accompanied me on the way to my house where he recited the most of the Revelation on spiritual marriage and invited me to his house to receive further instruction. Next day, I called on your father who expressed his gratitude at the conversion of bro. H. Y. Smith and gave me additional views on the subject, and the results of the same in the eternal worlds.

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Your father reasoned on these subjects in this wise. He said the Lord denounced in the Bible every species of crime. He proclaimed against adultery, fornication and divorce, but never against plurality of wives, and in all places where his humble & faithful servants in obedience to his laws took a plurality of wives he blessed them for it. He punished King David severely for his adultery with the wife of Uriah; and while God by the mouth of His prophet was chastising him he says: I give thee thy masters house and thy masters wives unto this bason, and give thee the house of Israel & Judah and if that had been too little I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

When the passage in the book of Mormon respecting Monogamy was read to your father; he replied that "God has commanded us."

Any one who will read carefully the denials, as they are turned, of plurality of wives in connection with the circumstances will see clearly that they denounce adultery, fornication, brutal lusts and the taking of plurality of wives by those who were not commanded to do so; showing clearly that it was understood that such commandments would be given to others.

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In all kindness cousin proph after having been many years associated with your father, and scores of times heard him testify that God had commanded him on pain of damnation to introduce this doctrine - that he had to do it as the people could bear it, you must not be astonished that I cannot receive your testimony that God has shown to you that the doctrine of plurality of wives is untrue. When your father received the authority to bear off the Kingdom in the twelve he gave them keys by which they could determine whether a revelation was from God or from some other source. Being one of the twelve who received these keys, testify that your testimony denying plurality of wives is not from God.

I have given you a few incidents and facts as they related, and in distributing your address I am only giving the folks who had an opportunity of hearing your fathers arguments an opportunity of comparing them with your own. The obligation which rested upon your father to establish this order of Patriarchal Marriage beyond the power of destruction seemed like a weight to crush him to the earth but knowing the redemption & exaltation of the human race depended upon it, notwithstanding the bigotry of his friends, the opposition of his own house, the

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universal tradition of the christian world, & the laws
of Illinois against it. He felt to rejoice that he was enabled
to fulfil his mission and free beyond the power
of man to destroy an institution which would redeem
the female sex from degradation and exalt mankind
to celestial glory and increase.

Enclosed find \$5.00 now in Chicago. Please the
goodness to credit me for one years subscription on the
Harold; the balance forward me in addresses as I have
distributed all I had.

Affectionately Your cousin

Geo. F. Smith